Inspiring research...
...for improving life

THE GWEN AND JULES KNAPP CENTER
FOR BIOMEDICAL DISCOVERY
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICAL CENTER
Congratulations

Crescat Scientia, Vita Excolatur—Let Knowledge Grow From More To More and So Be Human Life Enriched. The University of Chicago’s motto is nowhere more evident than when we note the critical scientific and medical advancements made here each and every day. The Gwen and Jules Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery is a stunning new facility designed to stimulate such accomplishment in an era in which scientific breakthroughs are more important than ever. The University is proud of its partnership with the many benefactors who have made this new building come to life. Thank you.

Robert J. Zimmer
President, The University of Chicago

A key tenet of the University of Chicago Medical Center is to translate scientific knowledge into the best treatment for complex disease. The Gwen and Jules Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery is a model incubator for achieving this vision. Its flexible, modern, high impact design houses an extraordinary faculty and staff working together to advance medical discovery and scientific innovation—ultimately leading to rapid improvements in how we care for patients with complex disease. Thank you for joining with all of us to make this possible.

James L. Madara, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer, The University of Chicago Medical Center
Dean, Division of the Biological Sciences
The Gwen and Jules Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery provides a greenhouse environment to nurture and support investigators who are creating a new era of individualized medicine, identifying treatments personalized to the genetic make-up of each patient. Chemotherapy, hormone therapy, organ transplantation, and the field of gastroenterology, among others, all began at Chicago, and now research teams in these fields have a new building designed to speed the pace of discovery.

At ten stories, the Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery is one of the tallest buildings on the University’s campus. Researchers work in 330,760 square feet of open, efficient, and flexible laboratory and office space designed to encourage cross-fertilization among and between labs. The building also features conference and lecture halls and several multi-story public and common spaces—all designed to enhance the exchange of ideas. The Knapp Center presents a glass façade and light-filled interiors and, as the best greenhouses do, provides a nurturing environment that allows diverse researchers to work in the same building.

Designed by Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP of Los Angeles, the Knapp Center is an integral piece of a new medical sciences campus that spans the continuum from basic research to patient care. A third-floor bridge connects the Knapp Center to both the Ellen and Melvin Gordon Center for Integrative Science and the Gwen and Jules Knapp Research Complex, which includes the Donnelley Biological Sciences Learning Center, the primary teaching facility for students in the Pritzker School of Medicine, and the Jules F. Knapp Medical Research Center, which houses genetics, cancer, immunology, and neurobiology laboratories.

Today we celebrate the opening of this phenomenal new facility and look with confidence to the life-enhancing outcomes that will be its legacy. We are grateful to our philanthropic partners for the critical role your vision and commitment plays in this success. Thank you.
Gwen and Jules Knapp are long-time partners to the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC). What began as a very personal quest to seek treatment for their daughter, Joy Faith, in her long struggle against the disease that eventually claimed her life, has become a broader quest—to help revolutionize understanding and treatment of the most devastating human diseases.

The Gwen and Jules Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery—the ten-story, state-of-the-art facility we celebrate here—and the surrounding Knapp Research Complex are all part of that commitment. The Knapps also play active roles in the volunteer leadership of the Medical Center; Jules is a Life Member of the Board of Trustees and Gwen serves on the UCMC Visiting Committee. In 1996 the Knapps were named the first Honorary Fellows of the Division of the Biological Sciences in recognition of the important impact they made on the future of medical science and their dedicated support of the University. This dedication was further recognized in 2007 when they were awarded the University of Chicago Medal. Established in 1976 by President John T. Wilson, the University of Chicago Medal recognizes distinguished service of the highest order to the University by an individual or individuals over an extended period of time.

Knowing that the work cultivated in the Knapp Center will bring patients new hope once unimaginable, Jules says that “to act as partners with a great university in order to help people is a tremendous honor.” We, in turn, are honored by their partnership and commitment.

“We have hope that in our children’s lifetimes some of these diseases will be defeated, or their treatments will improve the quality of people’s lives . . . . We hope that our gifts will advance science and health and benefit mankind.”
Ranked among the finest in the country, the University of Chicago Medical Center’s Comprehensive Cancer Center is comprised of nationally and internationally renowned leaders. Their breadth of expertise is crucial to the Medical Center’s emphasis on collaborative and translational medicine—taking knowledge gained in the laboratory and using it to better treat patients. Recently, and for the first time, the United States reported a decline in the number of men and women diagnosed with cancer or who have died from the disease. The University of Chicago was the thought leader behind many of the studies that led to these advances, and we thank the visionary faculty and philanthropists whose partnerships have sustained these efforts.

“All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.” Galileo
Created by the late American billionaire Daniel K. Ludwig, the Virginia & D.K. Ludwig Fund for Cancer Research donated $20 million to each of six leading cancer research institutions in 2006—including the University of Chicago—to create Ludwig Centers for cancer research. At the University of Chicago’s Ludwig Center, the focus is on metastasis, the process by which cancer cells migrate from a primary tumor to multiple distant sites. “Although it is a distinct, complicated, multi-step physiological process with its own dynamics, metastasis has remained largely unexplored and thus poorly understood,” said Director Ralph Weichselbaum, M.D., Daniel K. Ludwig Professor of Radiation and Cellular Oncology. “The Ludwig Center provides an unprecedented opportunity to make substantial progress in understanding and treating this fundamental component of cancer.”

In 1971, Daniel K. Ludwig established the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. He considered cancer to be one of humanity’s greatest challenges, and his business model was to engage brilliant minds from around the world and to provide resources for them to work together. “Mr. Ludwig believed the control of cancer required outstanding individuals given the necessary resources to meet any challenge,” notes fund chairman Lloyd J. Old, M.D. “The directors of the Ludwig Centers are some of the most eminent figures in U.S. cancer research today.”

“This magnanimous series of gifts will make a big difference in a short time in how we understand, prevent, and treat cancer,”
James L. Madara, M.D., Chief Executive Officer, Medical Center and Dean of the Division of the Biological Sciences.
For nearly 30 years, the Duchossois family has partnered with the University of Chicago to accelerate the growth of a program in cancer research and patient care that was already internationally recognized. This family of committed philanthropists has made major investments in the human capital that is at the center of modern medical care.

Owners of Duchossois Industries Inc., the family is known for its leadership in business and civic affairs. At the University of Chicago, Craig Duchossois serves on the Board of Trustees for both the University and the Medical Center. His service as co-chairman of the extraordinary Spark Discovery, Illuminate Life campaign led to gifts of more than $811 million for the Medical Center, far surpassing the original goal of $550 million and contributing significantly toward the $2 billion University-wide Chicago Initiative campaign.

In honor of the care provided by John Ultmann, M.D., to the late Beverly Duchossois during her battle with cancer, the family established, more than a decade ago, the John E. Ultmann Professorship, a chair currently held by Everett Vokes, M.D. Beverly herself was memorialized in their establishment of the Beverly Duchossois Cancer Laboratories, and the family has supported the Knapp Center building as well. In 2006, the Medical Center recognized the immense impact the Duchossois family has made on the institution, naming them as Honorary Fellows of the Division of the Biological Sciences.

In its new home in the Knapp Center, the Beverly Duchossois Cancer Laboratories continues to benefit from the family’s support of groundbreaking excellence in cancer care, focused particularly on the metastasis of cancer from the original site to other parts of the body. Researchers have recently discovered a gene that predicts how particular women will respond to traditional radiation and chemotherapy strategies. Such a finding is a critical step in delivering personalized medicine. Soon, genetic screening will provide the most effective therapies for each individual patient with the fewest unnecessary and life-threatening side effects. The name of Beverly Duchossois on these laboratories will remind all who enter of the motivation for medical research: to provide the best in care for future Beverlys and their families.
Cancer Research Foundation

The Cancer Research Foundation (CRF) was established by Chicago business legend Maurice Goldblatt after his brother and business partner, Nathan, passed away from cancer in 1944. Maurice dedicated the rest of his life to raising millions of dollars for cancer research. Exemplifying its tradition of giving, the Cancer Research Foundation gave $1.5 million in 2005 to establish a new program in gastrointestinal cancer prevention and control at the University of Chicago. The Cancer Research Foundation Laboratory is named in recognition of that significant gift.

While medical research is funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), recent cut-backs are making the grant application process increasingly competitive and the need for philanthropy all the more acute. “For 60 years, the Cancer Research Foundation has been our partner, providing essential seed funding for our faculty to pursue high-impact research,” says Michelle Le Beau, Ph.D., Director of the University of Chicago Cancer Research Center, adding “many of our most important achievements in the field of cancer research trace back to CRF funding.” Since its inception in the 1950s, the CRF has provided over $20 million to the University of Chicago’s cancer programs. Most recently, the CRF has generously provided the University of Chicago Cancer Research Center with a grant of $3 million. This initial funding will allow a newly assembled, Medical Center interdisciplinary scientific team to develop a comprehensive approach for studying therapy-related acute myeloid leukemia (t-AML).

The Cancer Research Foundation has also long focused on encouraging young scientists at the beginning stages of their research careers. The foundation’s Young Investigator Program began in 1986, providing $50,000 awards to junior faculty who have not yet received significant research funding. Since the program began, more than 100 University of Chicago faculty have received this coveted award to develop newer imaging technologies and novel targeted therapies, and to evaluate outcomes and develop innovative, less toxic preventative drugs.

Carole and Gordon Segal Housewares Charity Foundation

The University of Chicago Integrated Breast Cancer Laboratory: A partnership between the Housewares Charity Foundation and Carole and Gordon Segal

For Carole and Gordon Segal, health care is a philanthropic priority. Founders of the retail furniture and housewares conglomerate Crate & Barrel, the couple has provided substantial contributions to the University’s cancer research and imaging programs within the Ben May Institute for Cancer Research, the Department of Radiology, the Section of Hematology/Oncology, and most recently, the Institute for Genomics and Systems Biology.

Both Carole and Gordon are active participants in various Medical Center functions. Gordon is a member of the Medical Center’s Board of Trustees and is a life member of the Harper Society while Carole serves as an Advisory Board member for the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics.

The Housewares Charity Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises funds annually for designated charities. In a collaborative effort among industry manufacturers, retailers, and allied industry partners, the foundation hosts an annual charitable dinner that coincides with the International Home and Housewares Show. The goal of the dinners is to raise funds for charities and to honor their leaders. The University of Chicago Cancer Research Center is privileged to be among the foundation’s core partners.

Recently, a partnership between the Housewares Charity Foundation and Carole and Gordon Segal led to a generous gift to the University of Chicago Integrated Breast Cancer Research Laboratory. This new laboratory will bring together dozens of scientists in a high-technology research facility, providing a concentration of resources and expertise. It will enable the University of Chicago team led by Olufunmilayo Olopade, M.D., to develop newer imaging technologies and novel targeted therapies, and to evaluate outcomes and develop innovative, less toxic preventative drugs.
Women’s Board of the UCCRF
The University of Chicago Cancer Research Foundation

Women's Board Laboratory
The Women’s Board of the University of Chicago Cancer Research Foundation (UCCRF) is one of the many volunteer-driven organizations that support research initiatives at the University of Chicago Medical Center. The Women’s Board has long been a champion of basic cancer biology research efforts through its support for the Ben May Department of Cancer Research, the Committee on Cancer Biology, core facilities, and other scientific initiatives.

The funds raised by these volunteers are vital to advancing cancer research and treatment at the University of Chicago and continue to be instrumental in establishing core laboratory facilities where discovery takes place. Use of these facilities is further stimulated by the Women’s Board and its research fund that provides support for young investigators engaged in cancer research.

In 2006 the Women’s Board took on a new challenge by launching its first capital campaign to meet its largest fundraising goal ever. The Rising to Discovery campaign raised $1.5 million, which funded the University of Chicago Cancer Research Foundation Women’s Board Drug Discovery Laboratory in this building. Since 1947 members of the Women’s Board have raised nearly $10 million to fund cancer research and treatment at Chicago.

“The Women’s Board already does so much,” says Michelle Le Beau, Ph.D., Director of the University of Chicago Cancer Research Center. “That they took on this campaign—and finished it early—was truly heroic.”

The Duckworth Family
The Duckworth Family Laboratory for Cancer Prevention and Control

Connie and Thomas Duckworth’s gifts to the University of Chicago Cancer Research Foundation (UCCRF) have been instrumental in the success of the cancer program. A member of the UCCRF Board of Trustees since 2001, Thomas Duckworth believes that philanthropy can significantly impact an institution like Chicago as it builds strength in certain focused areas of cancer research.

Knowing the power of venture philanthropy, the Duckworths have been committed to funding young investigators and their new ideas with the intention that this support be leveraged to obtain additional federal, foundation, and pharmaceutical grants. In recognition of this vision and leadership, the Medical Center has named the Duckworth Family Laboratory for Cancer Prevention and Control.

The UCCRF itself is a private, not-for-profit organization that seeks funds to underwrite basic and clinical research programs on the causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer at the University of Chicago Cancer Research Center. Its members are investors in innovation that provides scientists and clinicians the freedom to boldly pursue their most promising insights.
Bright multilevel spaces are designed to facilitate staff interaction.

"We are pleased that we have the resources to allow for investigation and translation of discoveries to improve the health of society at the bedside and in the greater community. Our section has maintained a position of prominence by virtue of the quality of faculty and their ability to remain at the forefront of new developments."

Roy E. Weiss, M.D., Ph.D., Chief, Section of Endocrinology; Rabbi Morris I. Esformes Professor

With its rare combination of adult and pediatric subspecialists, the University of Chicago’s endocrinology program is poised to be at the forefront for discovery and treatment of endocrine disorders that span a lifetime. Many of the diseases that are treated and investigated begin in childhood and transition through adulthood requiring physicians and scientists with knowledge of these conditions to interact. At the Medical Center this interaction is facilitated, and clinical benefits are realized, by having both adult and pediatric programs within the section of endocrinology.

The endocrine system is a complex collection of hormone-producing glands that control basic body functions such as metabolism, growth, and sexual development. The work done here pursues a new, personalized approach to genetic risk. The team integrates the latest research into clinical practice, which gives patients access to the most advanced diagnostic and treatment services.

The uniqueness of the University of Chicago both geographically and philosophically allows for cross-fertilization by scientists in biological, physical, and social sciences to address the most pressing problems in society today as they relate to endocrine disorders.
For nearly 30 years, members of the Kovler family have been loyal and generous partners to the University of Chicago, helping to advance the breakthrough work of internationally recognized scholars in cancer, infectious diseases, and diabetes. Their contributions enabled the Medical Center’s Department of Medicine to establish the Kovler Diabetes Center, which integrates exceptional diabetes talent from across the division to explore novel treatments, preventative measures, and potential cures for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and their complications.

Under the direction of Louis H. Philipson, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Department of Medicine, the Kovler Diabetes Center unifies patient care with basic science, education, and research.

The Kovler Diabetes Center continues a rich history of over 100 years of diabetes-related research at the University of Chicago. Its physician-scientists and other researchers are conducting highly specialized studies in the genetic foundation of diabetes, beta-cell biology and molecular function, autoimmune disorders, and islet transplantation. More than 25 principal investigators work in Kovler-affiliated laboratories that together include over 150 scientists. The Kovler Diabetes Center’s research-intensive approach means discoveries made here at the University of Chicago Medical Center—as well as advances made around the world—are integrated immediately into patient care, offering the newest and best options for individuals to manage their diabetes. And many innovative research projects are developing new strategies to prevent diabetes among those most at risk.

In recent years, diabetes research has prospered from the Kovler family’s investments in renowned physicians and scientists, including David Ehrmann, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine; Donald Steiner, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine; and Graeme Bell, Ph.D., the Louis Block Professor of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

In addition to the Kovler Diabetes Center, the Kovler family also established the Marjorie B. Kovler Viral Oncology Laboratories in 1978. Brothers Jonathan and Peter, both graduates of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, have deep, personal connections to the University. In 2000, their gift was instrumental in building the Kovler Gymnasium at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, and in 2006, they founded the Everett Kovler Café, a 150-seat dining facility located in the Booth School of Business’s Harper Center.
“Our goal is to accelerate the transition of basic discoveries in genome science into practical benefits for society.”
Kevin White, Ph.D.

GENOMICS AND SYSTEMS BIOLOGY

The Institute for Genomics and Systems Biology (IGSB), launched in 2007 with collaboration from Argonne National Laboratory, is Chicago’s intellectual home for the study of gene networks. It links together evolutionary biologists, genetic theorists, genomic experimentalists, mathematicians, computer scientist, clinicians, ethicists, and economists. Under the leadership of geneticist Kevin White, Ph.D., a pioneer in genomics and systems biology, the IGSB’s list of fellows has grown to include more than 70 Chicago faculty members and Argonne scientists.

Within the interdisciplinary framework of the IGSB, scientists will seek new drug treatments, use nanotechnology to devise new methods of diagnosis and drug delivery, and develop genetic tests that will enable physicians to tailor drug treatments to individuals.

Research will focus first on cancer, diabetes, and inflammatory bowel disease, three areas for which the Medical Center’s patient care is ranked among the best in the nation. With success against any one of these diseases, we will have developed the prototype for a new model of interdisciplinary research.

The IGSB’s vision extends beyond new tests and treatments. With the nationally recognized MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics already on campus, the institute expects to be a strong voice in the national discourse on the many ethical questions that arise with increased availability of genomic information about individuals.

James and Karen Frank

The James and Karen Frank Family Professorship

The Frank family has demonstrated their commitment to the University of Chicago Medical Center in a number of notable ways. In 2006 the family established the James and Karen Frank Family Professorship and was instrumental in recruiting Kevin White, Ph.D., a leading genomic scientist, who holds this distinguished title. Additionally, the family founded the Frank Fellows, which provides fellowship support for physician-scientist candidates engaged in a joint-degree program. Twelve students have matriculated through the program and have or will receive both an M.D. and a Ph.D.

A Trustee of both the Medical Center and the University, Jim Frank was recognized as an Honorary Fellow of the Division of the Biological Sciences for his leadership and lasting impact on science and medicine at Chicago.

Jim’s wife, Karen, and his mother, Elaine Spiesberger Frank, AB ’38, are both members of the Women’s Board of the University of Chicago. His brother, Charles Frank, MBA ’75, received his degree from the University’s Graduate School of Business (now Booth School of Business). As one Frank Fellow noted, “The Frank family makes achievement possible, not only for individual students and researchers, but for the families that will benefit from this learning and these discoveries.” Indeed, their noteworthy commitment has advanced each aspect of the Medical Center’s core mission—to care, to teach, to discover.
The University of Chicago’s pediatric clinicians and scientists have dedicated their careers to caring for children with cancer and blood diseases, devastating conditions that affect not only the child but also their siblings and parents. Through cutting-edge research that identifies unique therapeutic approaches and outstanding clinical care, these committed caregivers hope to cure all children with these conditions. Their aim is to do so while ensuring that treatments are safe and appropriate so that patients can live healthy and productive lives.

Given the Medical Center’s location on Chicago’s South Side, the University of Chicago pediatric team impacts not only those most disadvantaged in its own community but also provides a kid-friendly, family-focused environment and healing care to children from around the globe.

These pediatric clinicians and scientists are redefining medical standards, teaching the next generation of leaders in pediatric medicine, and dramatically improving outcomes for their youngest and most vulnerable patients.

Notable among the stand-out pediatric programs is the Section of Hematology/Oncology, under the direction of John Cunningham, M.D. Philanthropy provides critical support for work in pediatric cancer research and care. We are honored to share the stories of Bernice and Earl Meltzer and the Stephen family—whose generosity advances the work of the Department of Pediatrics here in the Knapp Center.
Being a child with cancer can be an isolating experience. Thanks to the generosity of the Stephen family, the Child Life and Family Education program at the University of Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital improves the quality of life for its young patients. Whether the Child Life specialists are preparing a cancer patient for surgery using dolls to help explain procedures, broadcasting Bingo to patients’ room, or interacting with a child in the playroom, this critical program distracts kids from their isolation, allowing them to simply be kids.

The Stephen family’s commitment to helping children through their most vulnerable moments is why the family is known to us for more than just their premier Weber Grill business. We are proud to recognize the family’s mother, Margaret, and siblings Jim, George, Robert, Bill, Kenneth, Jeffrey, Barb, Janet, Virginia, Deborah, Margaret, and Maryl for their gracious gifts to the hospital and the Child Life program. In addition, the family has supported the hospital’s Clown Care endowment and sponsors its annual Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Reunion and Health Fair. Jim Stephen also contributes his leadership as a member of the Visiting Committee to the University of Chicago Medical Center.

The Stephen family’s commitment to pediatrics and research has been recognized through the naming of the Stephen Family Conference Room on the Knapp Center’s 4th floor, where the Department of Pediatrics research activity is centered.

Bernice and Earl Meltzer

**Bernice Meltzer Laboratory for Pediatric Cancer Research**

The science advanced in this pediatric cancer research laboratory directly impacts those Bernice Meltzer cherished most—children—and the cause to which she was committed—eradicating childhood cancer. During her lifetime, Bernice Meltzer built a legacy based on these most profound passions for children, for medicine, and for helping others. In 1988, she and her husband Earl’s generosity was honored by the naming of the Bernice Meltzer Laboratory for Pediatric Cancer Research, and over time they continued to give in support of research to improve outcomes for children with cancer. As an ongoing testament to Bernice, her family today, including daughter and son-in-law Judy and Wayne Lewis, continues her commitment to better treatments and cures for children with cancer.
Since its inception in 1927, the University of Chicago’s Gastroenterology section has continually improved treatments for digestive tract and related disorders. Deemed the top-ranked gastroenterology program in Illinois, the section was also ranked among the sixth finest programs in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report. Our internationally recognized specialists deliver innovative and proven treatments and diagnostic tests for mild to complex digestive and liver problems.

The Department of Medicine’s GI section is an acknowledged leader in the development of drugs, the improvement of technical procedures, and breakthrough genetic research. Among the section’s many successes is its renowned program for inflammatory bowel diseases, including Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. It was here that Nod2, the gene that contributes to the onset of Crohn’s disease, was identified. In addition to performing the first liver transplantations in the city of Chicago, the section has maintained active research in intestinal cell physiology, chemoprevention, nutrition, and myriad GI diseases. In the investigation of celiac disease, research here is on the brink of discovering alternative treatments for the digestive disorder that currently affects one out of every 133 individuals.

We are grateful for the steadfast philanthropic partnerships forged with outstanding foundations including the Gastro-Intestinal Research Foundation (GIRF). The GIRF story begins in 1962 when two Chicago businessmen, Martin N. Sandler and Joseph E. Valenti, Sr., joined their friend Dr. Joseph B. Kirsner in establishing the Gastro-Intestinal Research Foundation. In 1999 GIRF endowed a professorship in honor of Dr. Kirsner, a chair that is currently held by section chief Dr. Stephen Hanauer.

GIRF is comprised of men and women from all walks of life who share the common purpose of supporting research in the causes and cures for digestive disease. Their support assists physicians and scientists who work daily to improve the diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal illness, as well as the quality of life for patients who come to the University of Chicago GI Section from all over the world.

“Our program has offered a long history of excellence in clinical care, research, and education. With more than 20 specialists on staff, our program plays a leading role in the understanding of digestive diseases and in developing innovative and successful treatments for patients.”

Stephen Hanauer, M.D.
Chief, Section of Gastroenterology and Nutrition, GIRF Professor of Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology
Knapp Center Faculty

Department of Pediatrics
Mark Abe, M.D.
Kenneth Alexander, M.D., Ph.D.
Eric C. Beyer, M.D., Ph.D.
Erika Claud, M.D.
Susan L. Cohn, M.D.
John Cunningham, M.D.
Robert S. Daum, M.D.
Maria Dowell, M.D.
Stacy Kahn, M.D.
Jennifer Liedel, M.D.
Jeremy Marks, M.D., Ph.D.
Christopher Montgomery, M.D.
Ivan Moskowitz, M.D., Ph.D.
Kenan Onel, M.D., Ph.D.
Stephen Skapek, M.D.
Vu Nguyen, M.D.
Olufunmilayo Olopade, M.D.
Edwin Posadas, M.D.
Mark Ratain, M.D.
Janet Rowley, M.D.
Ravi Salgia, M.D., Ph.D.
Tanguy Seiwert, M.D.
Dorothy Sipkins, M.D., Ph.D.
Wendy Stock, M.D.
Michael Thrman, M.D.
Amittha Wickrema, Ph.D.
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